



*All New Haven children, birth through 8 are healthy, safe, thriving in nurturing families
and prepared to be successful lifelong learners.*

TESTIMONY OF Gail Ford, Council Coordinator

Committee on Children

February 17, 2015

Good evening Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban and members of the Committee on Children. My name is Gail Ford and I am the Coordinator for the New Haven Early Childhood Council (NHECC). The NHECC serves New Haven families as the School Readiness Council and as a citywide collaborative that focuses its work on children ages 0 to 8 and their families. The NHECC is a William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund Discovery Community. I appreciate the opportunity submit this testimony to the Committee.

I support HB 6595, AN ACT EXEMPTING BABY DIAPERS FROM THE SALES TAX; this bill would include baby diapers as exempt from the sales tax in Connecticut in the same manner as adult diapers, which are already tax exempt as a medical necessity.

Diapers are an essential medical supply in order to ensure a baby's health. In low-income households, babies often spend the entire day or longer in a single diaper. Inadequate diaper changing increases the risk of numerous health problems including diaper rash and an increased rate of hepatitis.

Low-income parents cannot take advantage of free or subsidized childcare if they cannot afford to leave disposable diapers at childcare centers. If parents cannot access daycare, then they are **less** able to attend work or school on a consistent basis.

In addition, most people living in poverty do not have affordable access to washing facilities, and most coin-operated laundromats do not allow customers to wash cloth diapers for health and sanitary reasons.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

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